

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Notice No. 96-8]

Improving the Hazardous Materials Safety Program; Public Meetings Related to Regulatory Review and Customer Service

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces two public meetings, one to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, and the other in Atlanta, Georgia, to seek information from the public on regulatory reform and improved customer service for RSPA's hazardous materials safety program. These meetings are a continuation of the initial series of public outreach meetings held between April 19, 1995 and January 25, 1996.

ADDRESSES: See Supplementary Information for specific time, location, and agenda.

DATES: Public Meetings will be held as follows:

(1) June 26, 1996, in St. Louis, Missouri.

(2) September 12, 1996, in Atlanta, Georgia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edmund J. Richards, Interagency Hazardous Materials Program Coordinator, (202) 366-0656; or Suezett Edwards, Training and Information Specialist, (202) 366-4900; Hazardous Materials Safety, RSPA, Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 4, 1995, President Clinton issued a memorandum to heads of departments and agencies calling for a review of all agency regulations to eliminate or revise those regulations that are outdated or in need of reform. In addition, the President directed front line regulators to " * * * get out of Washington and create grassroots partnerships" with people affected by agency regulations.

In response to the President's directive, RSPA performed an extensive review of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) and associated procedural rules (49 CFR Parts 106, 107 and 110). In April and July 1995, RSPA published notices in the Federal Register (60 FR 17049 and 60 FR 38888, respectively) that announced public meetings and requested comments on ways to improve the HMR and the kind and quality of services RSPA's customers expect. RSPA held 12 public meetings and received over 50 written comments

in response to the Federal Register notices.

Based on its review of the HMR and on written and oral comments received from the public, RSPA has initiated eight separate rulemakings to eliminate or revise those regulations that have been identified as being outdated or in need of reform (Dockets HM-200, HM-207C, HM-207E, HM-216, HM-220A, HM-220B, HM-222A, HM-222B). Except for Docket HM-200, RSPA expects all of these rulemakings to be issued as final rules by early June 1996. These rulemakings address areas of the HMR dealing with "materials of trade", training frequency, 24-hour emergency response telephone numbers, incident reporting, shipping papers, marketing, labeling, and placarding, elimination of over 100 sections of the HMR, restructuring of the Hazardous Materials Table and Hazardous Substance Table, restructuring of the cylinder specifications and cylinder requalification requirements, and rail and highway modal requirements. In addition, RSPA has initiated a two-year pilot ticketing program to streamline and simplify enforcement of certain violations which do not have a direct impact on the safe transportation of hazardous materials, such as failure to register, obtain renewed exemptions in a timely manner, retain training records, and file incident reports. In the international area, RSPA has incorporated requirements for the transportation of radioactive materials that are compatible with the regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and continued to adopt regulations towards harmonization with the United Nations Recommendations and other international regulatory bodies.

Significant actions have also been taken to improve management practices and operations. In 1995, RSPA implemented a toll-free number for obtaining assistance on the HMR, reporting potential violations of the regulations, and obtaining copies of training materials. In response to comments to improve responses to inquiries, RSPA has made a commitment to respond to phone calls before the end of the next business day, and to mail training materials and publications in a timely manner.

Conduct of the Meetings

The meetings will be informal and are intended to produce a dialogue between agency personnel and persons affected by the hazardous materials safety programs. The meeting officer may find it necessary to limit the time allocated each speaker to ensure that all

participants have an opportunity to speak. Conversely, the meeting may conclude before the time scheduled if all persons wishing to participate have been heard.

The meetings will have an open agenda and will be held as follows:

(1) June 26, 1996, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Henry VIII Hotel, 4690 N. Lindbergh Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri, 63044 (near the airport).

(2) September 12, 1996, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Omni Hotel, 100 CNN Center, Atlanta, Georgia, 30335.

Issued in Washington, DC on May 10, 1996.

Alan I. Roberts,

Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.

[FR Doc. 96-12178 Filed 5-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 1099-DIV

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 1099-DIV, Dividends and Distributions.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before July 15, 1996 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to Martha R. Brinson, (202) 622-3869, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Dividends and Distributions.

OMB Number: 1545-0110.

Form Number: Form 1099-DIV.

Abstract: This form is used by the Service to insure that dividends are

properly reported as required by Internal Revenue Code section 6042, that liquidation distributions are correctly reported as required by Code section 6043, and to determine whether payees are correctly reporting their income.

Current Actions: There are no changes being made to the form at this time.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 140,560.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 165 hr. 45 min.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 23,297,824.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Approved: May 1, 1996.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-12202 Filed 5-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form CT-1

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form CT-1, Employer's Annual Railroad Retirement Tax Return.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before July 15, 1996, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to Martha R. Brinson, (202) 622-3869, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Employer's Annual Railroad Retirement Tax Return.

OMB Number: 1545-0001.

Form Number: Form CT-1.

Abstract: Railroad employers are required to file an annual return to report employer and employee Railroad Retirement Tax Act (RRTA) taxes. Form CT-1 is used for this purpose. IRS uses the information to insure that the employer has paid the correct tax.

Current Actions: There are no changes being made to the form at this time.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations, not-for-profit institutions, and State, local or tribal governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,387.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 20hr. 23 min.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 48,646.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Approved: May 8, 1996.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-12203 Filed 5-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 941c and 941cPR

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 941c, Supporting Statement To Correct Information and Form 941cPR, Planilla Para La Correccion De Informacion.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before July 15, 1996, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to Martha R. Brinson, (202) 622-3869, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Form 941c, Supporting Statement To Correct Information and Form 941cPR, Planilla Para La Correccion De Informacion.

OMB Number: 1545-0256.

Form Number: Forms 941c and 941cPR.

Abstract: Form 941c (or Form 941cPR for use in Puerto Rico to correct FICA tax only) is used by employers to correct previously reported FICA or income tax data. The forms may be used to support a credit or adjustment claimed on a current return for an error in a prior return period. The information is used to reconcile wages and taxes previously reported or used to support a claim for refund credit or adjustment of FICA or income tax.

Current Actions: There are no changes being made to the forms at this time.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations, not-for-profit institutions, and State, local or tribal governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 958,050.